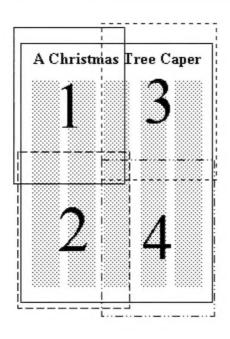
NOTE: This newspaper appearance was divided and enlarged to fill 8 ½" x 11" pages, roughly in the manner shown below.





By-JACK RITCHIE

(© 1969 by News Syndicate Co. Inc.)

AVID REGAN held his daughter Jennie until she was smiling again and then put her back in the playpen He walked back to his easel. "All right, Miss Brule."

Irene Brule ground out cigaret in the ashtray on the "She doesn't have to be beau-window sill and went back to the tiful." small platform. She sat down on Litton, sighed. There was a the straight-back chair and silence while he evidently conpatted her auburn hair. "This is sulted a list. "Well ... there's the first time anyone's ever Miss Helen Martin. Blonde, fiveasked me to pose for my face foot two, blue. ..."

alone Not that there's anything "Fine," David said. He hung wrong with my face, but that up, went into the kitchenette, and isn't my specialty."

Painting portraits was not David's specialty, either. pictures had the pleasant habit was asleep and breathing gently. I of appearing on the covers of "I love you," he whispered nationally known magazines. He earned a good living—a quite good enough for Clarice.

known.

"Your kid's crying again," Irene said irritably.

HE TAKES BABY OUT OF PLAYPEN

David put down his palette, "I noticed that." He went to the playpen, kneeled down and smiled. You just want to be held, don't

made himself a sandwich.

When he finished that and a His glass of milk, he tip-toed to Jeninterest was landscapes and his nie's bedroom and peeked in. She people Clarice was looking for

gently.

David had been shocked when In her playpen, Jennie's mouth baby might be better off with her carn. suddenly drooped to an inverted mo'ther, but Clarice hadn't encumbrances.

Vermont while he was doing a divorce. cover for a wildlife magazine.

from her father's farmhouse and back even to see Jennie. watched him paint. Clarice was Miss Helen Martin arrived at small and petite and had gray the studio at 2 in the afternoon. eyes. Yes, those eyes. He hadn't been able to understand what was was happy in her playpen and

have a baby. It had been an impatient, surly waiting, and when Jennie had been born, she had shown no interest in her at all.

CLARISE BEGAN **GIVING PARTIES**

But she had begun to give those parties. David realized why now. First there had been only David's friends and he know that she was not really interested in them. But a studio party is regarded by most people as an open house, and his friends had brought their friends, and eventually the had come.

There had been Evans. Fortyich, single, and in shipping. Jackson had a cross-country fleet of good living, he admitted to him-Clarice had blandly announced trucks. Hadley, a chain of drug-self—but still it hadn't been that he could have custody of stores. All of them had more Jennie. David had felt that the money than David could hope to

Had there really been any ar-U and she made her presence thought of it that way She had fair? David doubted it. Clarice simply wanted her freedom. No was not a woman for affairs. Yet she had finally been sure enough He had first met Clarice in of her future to ask David for a

Where was Clarice now? David She had come down the meadow didn't know. She had never come th

David made certain that Jennie at

HE TAKES BABY OUT OF PLAYPEN

David put down his palette.. "I noticed that." He went to the playpen, kneeled down and smiled. 'You just want to be held, don't "He picked her up and over you?! his shoulder Jennie grinned as the last tears rolled down her cheeks.

Irene got off the chair. "How do you ever get any work done? She lit another cigaret, went back to the window, and gazed out

over the rooftops. David watched her for a moment and then carried Jennie to the easel. He studied the picture and then sighed. "I'm afraid you

won't do, Miss Brule. Your cheekbones are too high.

Irene touched her cheeks and .immedately went to a mirror. "I don't see anything wrong with them.

"There's nothing wrong with them," David said quickly. "It's just that for my purposes, I can't use them.'

Irene's eyes narrowed. "I get paid for the whole day, don't I?" "Of course."

She was mollified. "It took you all morning to find out that my cheekbones were 'too high?"

"I thought I could paint around

them, so to speak."

When she was gone, David got Jennie ready for her nap. She accepted that fate reluctantly, but after she was settled, he closed the bedroom door and went to the phone.

He dialed the Litton Modeling Agency. "This is David Regan." Litton's voice was dry.

"Again?"

Again," David said firmly. "What was wrong with Miss

"Cheekbones too high."

"I'd like to see that painting of yours-if you ever finish it. You must be looking for the most beautiful woman in the world."

"Send up somebody else this afternoon," David said testily. David said testily.



Vermont while he was doing a divorce. cover for a wildlife magazine.

from her father's farmhouse and back even to see Jennie. watched him paint. Clarice was small and petite and had gray the studio at 2 in the afternoon. eyes. Yes, those eyes. He hadn't been able to understand what was was happy in her playpen and in them at the time, but now he then adjusted his easel to catch knew that they were eyes which the afternoon light. "You may totaled everything and decided talk, Miss Martin. I find that my what was best for Clarice.

SHE HAD ASKED HOW MUCH PICTURES COST

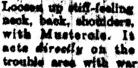
He remembered one of the first things!" She had used the word "things." He had told her and she had smiled to herself.

ly as his headquarters — he her nervous. traveled a great deal, mostly in David frowned as he cleaned a found that when he had to leave a little too close together.' on an assignment, Clarice would not go with him.

She had found New York fas- awful time getting you a mother, cinating—and its shops. And the aren't we?" day had come when David had had to remind her mildly that almost 3 and he had an appointcommercial artists do have a ment with an art editor at 4. limit to their incomes. There had Mrs. Swenson, his regular beby studied him dispassionately and now. her lips had formed an enigmatic smile.

Perhaps she had begun making plans to leave him at that moment, but then she had discovered that she was going to

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Where was Clarice now? David She had come down the meadow didn't know. She had never come

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Miss Helen Martin arrived at

David made certain that Jennie models are more at ease when they can speak. I'll let you know when I'm doing the mouth.

She shrugged. "What's there

to talk about?"

Nevertheless, she found somequestions she had asked him, thing. She had been reared in an How much do you get for those lows town and hated it. She had come to New York after graduating from a small college. Modeling was only temporary. She hoped to get into TV commercials. How long had it been before Nothing could stop her. She was they had become engaged? Two dedicated and on a starvation diet weeks? Three? And the mar- to keep her figure. She had no riage hadn't been long after that, time for men at the present time. They had gone to David's "Except if somebody really imapartment studio in New York." portant comes along." Eventually He had always regarded it mere- she mentioned that children made love

ÌD OI the New England and Middle brush. "Miss Martin, I'm afraid Atlantic states. But now he you won't do. Your eyes are just of wit

> After she left, David smiled down at Jennie. "We're having an

He glanced at his watch. It was been no scene. She had merely sitter, should be here any minute

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he said when the connection was

There was a silence and then, What was it this time?"

"Eyes too close together." David heard a knock at the door. "Hold the line a second." He put the phone on its side and went to the door.

The girl was in her early 20s. with brown eyes and a quiet smile. "Mr. Regan?"

And when he nodded, she said. "Mrs. Swenson couldn't make it today. The bureau sent me instead. My name is Lora Corwin."

He stared at her. Of course, he thought. Baby sitters. Why didn't. think of that before. They've got to like babies.

She flushed slightly stare.

David stanned milable

of human warmth and feeling. He was last with the Brange and delightful impression hat two hearts had briefly broshed together. You don't have to search, he thought with surprise It just happens.

Invid spoke into the phone. "Don't bother sending up anyone else. I think I'll be going back to landscapes." THE END

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While going to the letel service elevator on our floor to deposit the contents of a track basket into a big receptacle. I noticed that a strange guest and picked up an empty ginger ale bottle that the floor maid had left there. While returning to my suite, I remarked about the cheapness of the guest to the maid that I met in the hall. Later, a neighbor met me in the hall and said, "Oh, Mrs. B__ I want you to meet my dear little mother - in - law. But the latter said eaustically, "'Dear nothing,' this lady called me 'cheap' this morning." Manhattan.

I was only married a short time, when my husband phoned loing a divorce.

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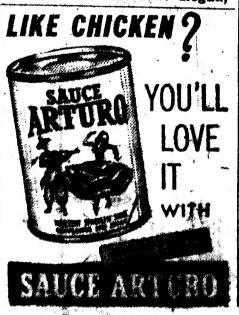
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After she left, David smiled down at Jennie. "We're having en k fas- awful time getting you a mother, nd the aren't we?"

He glanced at his watch. It was y that almost 3 and he had an appointave a ment with an art editor at 4. re had Mrs. Swenson, his regular baby merely sitter, should be here any minute

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David stepped quickly aside. Please come in."

She took off her chat and went to the playpen. Jennie gurgled with delight and in a moment they were the oldest of friends.

David experienced a sudden feeling of guilt as he watched her. It hadn't been that way with any of the others. He had simply and cold-bloodedly-been looking for someone who would be a mother to Jennie.

David remembered the phone and picked it up.

Litton spoke. "This is a challenge. I've been going over our photographs. I think I've got somebody you can't possibly complain about."

David glanced at Miss Corwin. It isn't enough that she like love . . . Jennie. There has to be more.

Their eyes met for a fraction of a second, then sprang apart with a twinge of shyness. But in that instant David had glimpsed unexpected depths a spectrum

my dear little mother in Jaw." But the latter said emustically, "'Dear nothing,' this lady called me 'cheap' this morning." Manhattan.

I was only married a short time, when my husband phoned me that he was bringing coworker of his home for dinner. My husband also asked me to make potato pancakes with the pot roast, as he'd been telling this chap about what a great cook I was. However, when my guest bit into his first pancake, I couldn't help but notice his odd expression and that his praise was rather lukewarm. Upon tasting a pancake myself, I soom discovered why, for I'd forgotten to put salt in the batter. Queens.

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